

Amendments To the Abstract:

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 14 line 1, as follows:

--ABSTRACT--

In the English translation document, please add the paragraph at page 14 line 1, after the newly added ABSTRACT section heading, as follows:

In order to ensure that a telephone service is as readily available as in conventional telephone networks when IP networks are used as a transmission network, media gateways have to be connected in a fail-safe manner to a network of IP routers. The failures that have to be taken into account comprise partial failures of the media gateway, total or partial failures of IP routers, and failures of the connections between the media gateway and the IP routers. Fail-safe interfacing of a media gateway with IP routers ensures unimpaired functioning of the entire system if one of said failures occurs. According to the invention, a network element comprising at least one component which is configured in an at least doubly redundant manner is interfaced in a fail-safe manner with a transmission network by coupling each of at least two interface units to a component of the transmission network via one respective connection while coupling each of the at least two interface units to the redundant components of the network element via one respective connection.